## What is claimed is:

- A lighting apparatus for emitting white light comprising:

   a semiconductor light source emitting radiation having a

  wavelength in the range of from about 235 to about 430 nm;
- a phosphor composition radiationally coupled to the semiconductor light source, the phosphor composition comprising a blue emitting phosphor, a green emitting phosphor and a red emitting phosphor comprising  $(Ba,Sr,Ca)_3Mg_xSi_2O_8:Eu^{2+}$ , wherein  $1 \le x \le 2$ .
- 2. The lighting apparatus of claim 1, wherein the semiconductor light source is a light emitting diode (LED).
- 3. The lighting apparatus of claim 2, wherein the LED comprises a nitride compound semiconductor represented by the formula  $In_iGa_iAl_kN$ , where  $0 \le i$ ;  $0 \le j$ ,  $0 \le K$ , and i + j + k = 1.
- 4. The lighting apparatus of claim 1, wherein the phosphor composition is coated on the surface of the semiconductor light source.
- The lighting apparatus of claim 1, further comprising an encapsulant surrounding the semiconductor light source and the phosphor composition.
- 6. The lighting apparatus of claim 1, wherein the phosphor composition is dispersed in the encapsulant.
- 7. The lighting apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a reflector cup.
- 8. The lighting apparatus of claim 1, wherein said phosphor composition further comprises at least one of a blue-green emitting phosphor, an yellow-orange emitting phosphor, and an additional red emitting phosphor.

- 9. The lighting apparatus of claim 1, wherein said phosphor composition comprises a spectral weight of 0.01-0.3 of the blue phosphor, about 0.1-0.5 of the green phosphor, and the balance of the red phosphor.
- 10. The lighting apparatus of claim 1, wherein said blue emitting phosphor is selected from the group consisting  $(Ba, Sr, Ca)_5(PO_4)_3(Cl, F, Br, OH): Eu^{2+}, Mn^{2+}; Sb^{3+}, (Ba, Sr, Ca)MgAl_{10}O_{17}: Eu^{2+}, Mn^{2+};$ Mn<sup>2+</sup>:  $(Sr,Ca)_{10}(PO_4)_6*nB_2O_3:Eu^{2+};$ (Ba,Sr,Ca)BPO<sub>5</sub>:Eu<sup>2+</sup>,  $Sr_2Si_3O_{8^2}SrCl_2:Eu^{2^+}$ : 2SrO\*0.84P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>\*0.16B<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>:Eu<sup>2+</sup>; Ba<sub>3</sub>MqSi<sub>2</sub>O<sub>8</sub>:Eu<sup>2+</sup>;  $Sr_4Al_{14}O_{25}$ :Eu<sup>2+</sup> (SAE); BaAl<sub>8</sub>O<sub>13</sub>:Eu<sup>2+</sup>; and mixtures thereof.
- 11. The lighting apparatus of claim 8, wherein said red phosphor is selected from the group consisting of  $(Gd,Y,Lu,La)_2O_3:Eu^{3+},Bi^{3+};$   $(Gd,Y,Lu,La)_2O_2S:Eu^{3+},Bi^{3+};$   $(Gd,Y,Lu,La)VO_4:Eu^{3+},Bi^{3+};$   $(Ca,Sr)S:Eu^{2+};$   $SrY_2S_4:Eu^{2+};$   $CaLa_2S_4:Ce^{3+};$   $(Ca,Sr)S:Eu^{2+};$   $3.5MgO*0.5MgF_2*GeO_2:Mn^{4+}$  (MFG);  $(Ba,Sr,Ca)MgP_2O_7:Eu_{2+},Mn^{2+};$   $(Y,Lu)_2WO_6:Eu^{3+},$   $Mo^{6+};$  and mixtures thereof.
- The lighting apparatus of claim 1, wherein said green 12. phosphor is selected from the consisting group (Ba,Sr,Ca)MgAl<sub>10</sub>O<sub>1</sub>7:Eu<sup>2+</sup>,Mn<sup>2+</sup> (BAMn);  $(Ba,Sr,Ca)Al_2O_4:Eu^{2+};$  $Ca_8Mg(SiO_4)_4Cl_2:Eu^{2+},Mn^{2+};$ (Y,Gd,Lu,Sc,La)BO<sub>3</sub>:Ce<sup>3+</sup>,Tb<sup>3+</sup>;  $(Ba,Sr,Ca)_2SiO_4:Eu^{2+}$  $(Ba,Sr,Ca)_2(Mg,Zn)Si_2O_7:Eu^{2+};$  $(Sr,Ca,Ba)(Al,Ga,In)_2S_4:Eu^{2+};$  (Y,Gd,Tb,La,Sm,Pr,Lu)<sub>3</sub>(Al,Ga)<sub>5</sub>O<sub>12</sub>:Ce<sup>3+</sup>;  $(Ca,Sr)_8(Mg,Zn)(SiO_4)_4Cl_2$ :  $Eu^{2+}$ ,  $Mn^{2+}$  (CASI);  $Na_2Gd_2B_2O_7$ :  $Ce^{3+}$ ,  $Tb^{3+}$ ; (Ba,Sr)2(Ca,Mg,Zn)B2O6:K,Ce,Tb; and mixtures thereof.
- 13. The lighting apparatus of claim 1, wherein said (Ba,Sr,Ca)<sub>3</sub>Mg<sub>x</sub>Si<sub>2</sub>O<sub>8</sub>:Eu<sup>2+</sup> phosphor emits radiation having a first emission peak at about 430 to about 475 nm and a second emission peak at around 610 to 700 nm.

- 14. The lighting apparatus of claim 1, wherein said (Ba,Sr,Ca)<sub>3</sub>Mg<sub>x</sub>Si<sub>2</sub>O<sub>8</sub>:Eu<sup>2+</sup> phosphor contains a greater amount of Sr than Ba or Ca.
  - 15. The lighting apparatus of claim 1, wherein x = 1.
- 16. The lighting apparatus of claim 1, wherein the total combined doping levels of Eu<sup>2+</sup> and Mn<sup>2+</sup> is from 0.1% to 40% by weight of the total phosphor composition.
- 17. A method for forming a lighting apparatus, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a near UV LED capable of emitting radiation having a wavelength of from about 235 to about 430 nm; and,

radiationally coupling a phosphor composition to the LED, the phosphor composition comprising a blue emitting phosphor, a green emitting phosphor and a red emitting phosphor comprising  $(Ba_1Sr_1Ca)_3Mg_xSi_2O_8$ : Eu<sup>2+</sup>, wherein  $1 \le x \le 2$ ;

wherein the phosphor composition is capable of absorbing the radiation emitted by the semiconductor light source and converting the radiation into white light.

- 18. A phosphor blend comprising a blue emitting phosphor, a green emitting phosphor and a red emitting phosphor comprising  $(Ba,Sr,Ca)_3Mg_xSi_2O_8:Eu^{2+}$ , wherein  $1\le x\le 2$ .
- 19. The phosphor blend of claim 18, wherein said phosphor blend is capable of absorbing the radiation emitted by a semiconductor light source emitting from 235-430 nm and converting the radiation into white light.
  - 20. A lighting apparatus for emitting light comprising:

a semiconductor light source emitting radiation having a wavelength in the range of from about 235 to about 430 nm;

- a phosphor composition radiationally coupled to the semiconductor light source, the phosphor composition comprising a red emitting phosphor comprising  $(Ba_1Sr_1Ca_3Mg_xSi_2O_8:Eu^{2+})$ , wherein  $1 \le x \le 2$ .
- 21. A lighting apparatus for emitting light according to claim 20, wherein x = 1.
- 22. A lighting apparatus for emitting light according to claim 20, wherein said  $(Ba,Sr,Ca)_3Mg_xSi_2O_8$ : Eu<sup>2+</sup> phosphor emits radiation having a first emission peak at about 430 to about 475 nm and a second emission peak at around 610 to 700 nm.